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PROGRAM Communique

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SUBJECT Recent Developments in the Spy Business

SANFORD UNGAR: From National Public Radio in Washington, I'm Sanford Ungar, and this is Communique.

In the old days, during World War II and beyond, the movies set the tone for real-life international intrigue. The good guys were easy to tell apart from the bad. Espionage was conducted, for the most part, by agents in trench coats who dashed through the wet, dark streets of Vienna, Berlin and Geneva, making dead drops, foiling their adversaries with microdots and an occasional poisoned dart.

There's still some of that, of course. But today's intelligence world is one of satellites, computers, listening posts, and other high technology.

On this edition of Communique, a glimpse of that world, and the question: How effective and how secure is Western intelligence?

However streamlined the intelligence business has become, it still involves spies.

ANNOUNCER: The news at 5:45 with Michael Nicholson.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, has declined to answer questions in the Commons about the alleged spy scandal at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham. He said the matter was sub judice.

An American newspaper has claimed the Russians were able to get hold of....